

### 110.3 Called and Recalled

We often think of **George Washington** as the ideal American. Yes, he was imperfect, but the more I read about him, the more I see the hand of God in his life and how God uses willing people for His purposes.

Due to his father's death and the will of his mother, George Washington's level of education was far lower than any of the other United States Founding Fathers. He worked the family farm and spent time as a surveyor and a Colonial soldier in the British army before the tensions surrounding the Revolution. He learned two critical skills, how to navigate the land and how to lead an army.

It was at the **French and Indian War** Battle of Monongahela that we first learned Washington was "bullet-proof." The Indians tried to shoot him multiple times, but he came out of the skirmish with bullet holes in his clothes and had two horses shot from under him.

General Washington served as our **Continental Army** Commander in Chief during our War for Independence. He led troops into the British lines and never suffered an injury. The Providence he relied on had protected him.

After the War, Washington served the nation as the President of the Constitutional Convention. We unanimously elected him as our first President in 1789, and rightly so. Following his presidency, he wanted to return to Mt. Vernon and farm his land. However, America would need him again during his successor's presidency. John Adams requested his aid, and he complied.

France had been our ally in the Revolution, but times changed. They had a revolution, too. We did not help either side but stayed out of the conflict. One of the reasons was the contrast in philosophies. As **Alexis de Tocqueville** attested, America included God, and France excluded Him.

The French began an extortion operation in which they offered not to fire on our commercial ships if we paid them a fee. On July 13, 1798, war with France loomed. The country clamored "*Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute*," George Washington accepted President **John Adams'** appointment as Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States. The General addressed the American people and said:

Satisfied, therefore, that you have sincerely wished and endeavored to avert war, and exhausted, to the last drop, the cup of reconciliation, we can, with pure hearts, appeal to Heaven for the justice of our cause; and may confidently trust the final result to that kind Providence who has, heretofore, and so often, signally favored the people of these United States.

Thinking in this manner and feeling how incumbent it is upon every person, of every description, to contribute at all times to his country's welfare, especially in a moment like the present, when everything we hold dear and sacred is so seriously threatened, I have finally determined to accept the commission of Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States.

America was not a superpower, and John Adams found himself in a predicament as our nation's leader. He called on the best person to bolster our Army and the country's morale. As Washington accepts this familiar role, we see the spirit of service exhibited in the man. He was not too good to accept a subordinate role to serve the best interests of the nation he fought for and helped establish. As the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army, he would answer to his former Vice-President, John Adams. The nation's safety was more important than his ego.

**John Q. Adams** had a similar outlook. He served the nation from his youth through the presidency but didn't stop there. Instead, he ran for Congress and served his district until he died in the Speaker of the House's office.

Men like Washington and Adams were the norm of their day. They equated civil service to serving God and did not separate the two as we do today. Having a biblical worldview means we include God in all aspects of life. The contemporary idea that we limit God to a Sunday morning sanctuary was not our forefathers' prevailing view. The "wall of separation" **Thomas Jefferson** wrote was not to keep godly people out of government but to keep the government from interfering with their religious beliefs and practices.

God called people from all walks of life to leadership roles. In **Exodus 3**, He called Moses while he was a shepherd in Midian. He called the farmer Gideon to become a great warrior. Notice **Judges 6:12** (NKJV):

**And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"**

Amos was a sheep breeder and tended sycamore trees (**7:14**), yet God made him a prophet. Paul was a rabbi and tentmaker, and the Lord turned him into an apostle with the gospel. We could go on, but let's stop with these and then make an application for us. If God called ordinary people in the Bible and America to roles that required superhuman power, He can today. You and I can be the willing vessels that carry out His will as He directs our paths, just like He did in the scriptures and our nation's history.

I know George Washington was not without fault, but he is an example of God working in a person's life. He was a man of prayer, rising at 4 am to spend an hour alone with God before meeting the day's activities. We know, for instance, he prayed in the snows of Valley Forge and that God answered him.

The General knew the value of liberty and purportedly said, "*I would rather die on my feet than live on my knees.*" Today most Americans would reverse it. Liberty is not so important to us because we have enjoyed it for years. However, we are about to lose our freedoms, and many patriots are making a stand to oppose tyranny like George Washington and the patriots of the eighteenth-century United Colonies and States.

We often criticize **Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin**, and others for their shortcomings. However, God always works through flawed people. Other than Jesus, that is all God has to work with, and He does mighty things with honest and faithful men and women. We have had a prosperous republic because godly people established a government based on biblical principles. We have let those eternal values slide and are paying the price for our apathy.

Let me encourage you to read **Psalm 44**. I want to close with four verses from it. As I read, think about God's hand with Israel and America.

**We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old:**

**<sup>2</sup>You drove out the nations with Your hand, But them You planted; You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out.**

**<sup>3</sup>For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.**

**<sup>26</sup>Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.**

Keep The Light of Godly Civic Responsibility Burning!